

W5YI

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

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July 15, 1989

\$1.50

PUBLISHED TWICE A MONTH

Vol. 11, Issue #14

House Bill Would Bring Spectrum Windfall

A new bill proposed by House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell (D-Mich.) and House telecommunications subcommittee chairman Edward Markey (D-Mass.) would reallocate 200 MHz of prime Federal Government spectrum to the private sector for commercial use. The *Emerging Telecommunications Technologies Act of 1989 (ETTA)*, as the bill is known, will have *tremendous impact* on radio communications if it passes.

ETTA does not propose to make any of the reallocated spectrum available to Amateur Radio. The bill emphasizes the need for spectrum for new commercial applications using new technologies. If vast amounts of new spectrum are given to commercial users, it could result in less pressure to reallocate amateur spectrum. However, if the new spectrum is made hard to qualify for or is dedicated to such emerging technologies as High-Definition Television (HDTV) or low cost car phone service (CT-2 ...more on this later), mobile radio industries might continue to press for amateur frequencies.

The legislation is also seen as signalling that it is time for a hard look at the spectrum fat-cats and, like it or not, many view Amateur Radio as a plump tabby indeed. Certainly more reason than ever to get the ratio of spectrum to licensed amateurs in a better proportion by increasing the number of users.

ETTA recognizes that about 40% of the assigned spectrum is reserved for Federal use and that many of the reserved frequencies are unused

by Government licensees. It states that scarcity of spectrum impedes national productivity and development of new services, and directs the President, the Commerce Dept. and the FCC to take steps to "correct these deficiencies."

Within 24 months after the bill becomes law, Commerce Dept. would have to find unneeded frequencies "...most likely to have the greatest potential for commercial uses". Not less than 200 MHz of the recommended bands would have to be located below 5 GHz. Special provisions will enable Federal use of up to 20% of the spectrum recommended within a geographic area, but the area could not include more than 20% of the U.S. population.

The bill also requires that a *Private Sector Advisory Committee* be formed to advise on which frequencies to reallocate. The advisory committee would be composed of U.S. radio equipment manufacturers, carriers, radio licensees, the FCC, and "...interested members of the public who are knowledgeable about the uses of the electromagnetic spectrum." Representatives from the amateur and personal radio communities might be able to participate, but we expect intense competition for seats on the committee.

Within a year after Commerce completes rearrangement of the government spectrum, the FCC would have to produce a plan for distribution of the newly-available spectrum. The plan must reserve a "...significant portion" of the frequencies for distribution more than 10 years after enactment, and

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GM said the ARRL desires to assure that "...even in the worst case, there will be no possibility that a §Part 15 device will ever degrade any amateur radio service. If spectrum were bountiful, this would be a good solution. As the Commission well

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?

per ☐) We Rep ☐ Pro, I be ☐ a ly of ☐ I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and

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operator license revoked or suspended. I do not own a significant

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knows, spectrum is actually a very scarce commodity. Even between licensed services, the FCC has long ago abolished the goal of perfect isolation as far too wasteful of valuable spectrum. With the secondary status of Part 15 devices, which must cease operation if harmful interference is caused [15.5(c)], it would be even more wasteful of spectrum to engineer for the worst case."

GM said the ARRL "...fails to acknowledge that susceptibility to interference is under the control of the equipment designer and is not a preordained fact." It said the FCC "...wisely refused to ban all devices in the ISM bands above 900 MHz because some devices might encounter interference."

GM ISSUES MOBILE RADIO INSTRUCTIONS

General Motors has issued a set of **Radio Telephone/Mobile Radio Installation Guidelines** to the public and its dealers. While amateur radio is not specifically mentioned, a photograph in the service bulletin shows a mobile VHF - HF ham radio multiple transceiver installation.

GM warns "Certain radio telephones or land mobile radios or the way they are installed may adversely affect the vehicle operations such as the performance of the engine and driver information, entertainment and electrical charging systems. Expenses incurred to protect the vehicle systems from any adverse effect of any such installation are not the responsibility of General Motors Corporation."

Some installation pointers from General Motors:

- (1.) Transmitters should be located on driver's side in trunk, under dash or on transmission hump.
- (2.) Antennas should be on roof, center of rear deck lid, rear bumper or [if glass mount] should be high on the center of rear window. Locate antenna as far as possible from vehicle electronics and wiring. "Each vehicle model and body style reacts to radio frequency energy differently. When dealing with an unfamiliar vehicle, it is suggested that a magnetic-mount antenna be used to check the proposed antenna location for unwanted effects on the vehicle [prior to permanent installation.] Antenna location is a major factor in these effects."
- (3.) Always use high quality coax cabling of *at least 95% shield coverage* routed away from the ECM (Engine Control Module) and other electronics

modules. Do not route feedline with any other vehicle wiring.

(4.) It is *important* that the antenna be properly tuned and reflected power be kept to a minimum. (VSWR ≤ 2:1)

(5.) Radio power leads should be connected directly to the battery itself, including the ground or the jump-start block on vehicles so equipped. Leads should be #10 AWG wire or larger, twisted if possible. The ground wire should *not* be attached to the body at any point. Appropriate in-line fuses for both the positive and ground leads should be located as near the battery as possible. If multiple transceivers are installed, power leads should be connected to buss bars. This reduces the number of wires running underhood.

(6.) Power leads should be brought through a grommet on the driver's side firewall. As much distance as possible should be maintained between radio power leads and vehicle electronic modules and wiring.

(7.) Should vehicle problems develop, radio operation should be terminated *immediately* until the source of the difficulty is determined. Possible causes generally include: power leads connected to points other than battery, poor antenna location, transceiver wiring too close to vehicle electronic modules or wiring ...and/or poor shielding or connectors on antenna feedline.

Although General Motors says their vehicles have been designed and extensively tested for immunity to known sources of RF energy, they warn "...it is impossible to test for every combination of RF source or installation." If persistent vehicle operation problems are encountered, write to:

**Electromagnetic Compatibility Dept. - MR
Building 40
General Motors Proving Ground
Milford, Michigan 48042-2001**

Provide make/model of both vehicle and mobile transceiver ...include transmitter location, power level, frequencies operated and antenna type/location. GM also needs the VIN, vehicle ID number.

A special "fill-in-the-blank" *Vehicle-Transceiver Problem information Sheet* is also available from the above address.

CT-2, WORLDWIDE CORDLESS TELEPHONE

The cellular industry may be stealing the glory in the U.S. as millions sign up for car phones, but a new, lower-cost form of radio telephone is the hottest new thing in telecommunications overseas.

It's a type of enhanced cordless telephone, known in Europe as "CT-2" (Cordless Telephone 2) or "DECT" (Digital European Cordless Telephone). A future version of this system is expected to bring a worldwide wireless personal communications service beginning in the late 1990s.

"CT-1" is the first-generation British cordless telephone based on the current U.S. system. It operates at 1.7 and 47 MHz, but with only 8 channel pairs, interference problems are common.

The CT-2 standard was developed by British Telecom. It works like an ordinary cordless phone for use around the house. A base station uses radio to link a portable handset to the telephone line. But there's more -- you can pop the handset in your pocket and use it in public places such as hotels, shopping malls, airports, train stations, downtown business areas and gas stations. The unit uses low-power base stations called phonepoints installed in weatherproof boxes to transmit your call from the handset to the public switched telephone network. Speech transmission is fully digital at 32 kbps, using 40 channels in the 864-868 MHz band.

As a subscriber, you need not wait in line for a pay phone. You can talk while walking about within a few hundred feet of the base station, which is marked with a sign. The system is multiplexed, so several users can operate through a base station simultaneously.

The use of CT-2 for this purpose is generally called "Telepoint," a commercial service in England to be offered this summer. The British government has licensed four nationwide providers. U.S. firms Motorola and NYNEX are part of two of the licensees. Four million Telepoint subscribers are expected in the U.K. by 1994.

Although the CT-2 standard includes full two-way capability, Telepoint makes use of CT-2 only as a one-way service. You can only make calls and not receive them. The Telepoint phones will cost more than U.S. cordless phones. A Telepoint portable telephone unit will retail for about \$275, and some

reports suggest monthly usage fees as high as \$17.00.

CT-2 has competition. DECT is a rival standard that some see as more likely to dominate the portable communications world in the mid-1990s. DECT will use different digital protocols and is seen as superior to CT-2 for such applications as in-building wireless private branch exchanges (PBXs).

Within the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), delegates from several countries are busy planning for the "third-generation" wireless personal communication system, seen as a merger between the cellular telephone, pager and CT-2 and DECT technologies. This new standard will be known as the **Future Public Land Mobile Telecommunication System** (FPLMTS), likely to be operated in most countries by government or private telephone companies.

FPLMTS will require very large amounts of spectrum by today's standards--100 to 200 MHz below 3 GHz--but will use microcellular techniques to provide near-universal indoor and outdoor portable phone, image and electronic mail services to tens or hundreds of millions of subscribers. The system may be able to share spectrum with fixed microwave users as well, possibly reducing the overall requirement for dedicated spectrum.

Now under study is the *Personal Telecommunication Number* (PTN) for each user. The PTN will enable you to roam not only within the territory of one nation, but between nations, and still be reachable. Huge databases containing current location and routing information would be maintained, similar to the X.400 world electronic mail standard now being implemented among some E-mail providers.

FPLMTS will be a principal agenda item for the 1992 WARC, which will reallocate spectrum in the .5 - 3 GHz range for services such as mobile satellite, direct-satellite broadcasting, and space research as well as FPLMTS. Proponents of the service hope for a frequency allocation consistent across all ITU regions for a truly international service.

The FCC has slated its first symposium on Advanced Cordless Telephony (CT-2) for July 11 at the commission's downtown headquarters -- too late for our deadline. We'll bring you up-to-date in our next issue.

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AMATEUR SATELLITE NEWS DIGEST....

• Arianespace officials now say **MICROSAT's launch set for Nov. 9, 1989**. This year will be a banner year with six, or perhaps seven amateur radio satellites lifted into orbit. The Soviet launch of RS12/13 is expected at any time. The Japanese launch of their JAS-2 satellite has been scheduled for January 23, 1990.

• Soviet cosmonaut **Musa Manaroff/U2MIR** visited the U.S. recently to meet with NASA space medicine specialists as a "specimen" to prove humans can survive 366 days and 5,856 orbits in space with no long term ill effects. Musa said his Yaesu FT-290 transceiver arrived in November of 1988 while he was aboard the Mir spacecraft. Although Musa is an electrical engineer, he was only an SWL. Musa, who was licensed in space, hopes to keep his U2MIR call. AMSAT has granted Musa an honorary life membership.

• Listen for **Jim Hartwell/K7UDG** on 14.272 MHz who, along with several members of the Western Washington DX Club, joined **Gene Kestromin/UA4RZ** and the Ziland DX Club for three weeks of HF and AO-13 operations from the Soviet city of Kazan. The USSR granted the joint US/USSR DX-pedition the special call of US4P. They will be on the air until July 21. ICOM America donated a new IC-475A to the Ziland DX Club.

VEC's HOLD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC's) representing just about all of the amateur radio operator testing conducted in the United States met July 8th in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania for their *Fifth Annual VEC Conference*. The meeting started off with a guided tour of the FCC's Gettysburg licensing facility and later convened at the Sheraton hotel.

The FCC's Washington Private Radio Bureau was represented by Personal Radio Branch chief, **John B. Johnston/W3BE** and Special Services Division chief, Bob McNamara. FCC staffers Tom Fitz-Gibbon and Monty DePont who handle amateur compliance and rule making functions also were in attendance. Darlene Reeder, Larry Weikert and Marcus Stevens represented Gettysburg. ARRL's **Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC**, attended on behalf of League directors.

Central Alabama's **Tom Ingram, K4OOV**,

acted as moderator. Several VEC's gave presentations on such subjects as FCC Form 610 changes, question pool handling, developing a data base for decertified VE's, VE guidelines, combining the Novice and VE/VEC examining systems ...and the impact of a possible code-free amateur class on the amateur testing community. DeVry-VEC's **Jim Georgias/W9JUG** discussed the results of a questionnaire he had sent to all VEC's.

It was also generally agreed that any new class of code-free amateur license should be examined under the VEC System and the required tests should be such as to easily integrate into the present question banks.

The *Question Pool Committee* (QPC) will contain the following members for the coming year: **Ray Adams/N4BAQ** (Chairman), **Fred Maia/W5YI** (Vice Chairman) and **Bart Jahnke/KB9NM** (Member.) The QPC is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the question sets used in testing the various amateur radio operator classes.

The primary conference topic was the impact of the new §Part 97 rules on amateur radio testing. Many questions in the "rules" Subelement "A" must now be revised, deleted or replaced to bring the five question pools in conformity with the new §Part 97 which is effective September 1. Telegraphy examinations may now be longer than five minutes, but still must contain all required characters.

The *Question Pool Committee* met after the conference and decided on the following schedule regarding §Part 97 changes as they apply to amateur radio testing.

(1.) The recently revised and released Novice written Elements 2 and Technician written Element 3(A) will be implemented unchanged on or before November 1, 1989, as previously announced.

(2.) Recognizing that all question pools now differ substantially from the freshly rewritten §Part 97, the QPC recommends that all Volunteer Examiners (VE's) use discretion in grading those questions where the question or the published answer may now differ from the rules to be implemented on September 1st. VEC's are requested to encourage their Volunteer Examiners to implement these recommendations.

(3.) The QPC will publish a "discretion list" of question numbers for each pool. This list will contain those questions which must be revised,

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replaced or deleted. The QPC recommends that discretion be used when exercising the authority reserved to the VE by §Part 97 for selecting questions for design or grading of an examination. In other words, VE's may want to eliminate these questions from their examinations - or if used, may want to accept an alternate answer which is in accordance with the new §Part 97.

(4.) Following the publication of a discretion list, the QPC will then release a supplement to each existing question pool which will bring the pool into conformity with the new rules.

(5.) The QPC committed to the following releases:
 9/18/89: Discretion list for Elements 2 [Novice] and 3(A) [Technician]
 3/1/90: Element 2 and 3(A) supplements
 7/1/90: Implementation of Element 2 and 3(A) supplements
 7/1/90: Discretion list for Elements 3(B), 4(A) and 4(B) [Gen., Adv. & Extra Class questions]
 8/1/90: Element 3(B), 4(A) and 4(B) supplements
 11/1/90: Implementation of remaining supplements

(6.) The above schedule may be completed sooner if circumstances permit.

(7.) All subsequent question pool revision schedules were suspended until the *Sixth Annual VEC Conference* to be held on June 15, 1990.

TESTING ACTIVITY BY VE COORDINATOR

The following breakdown was issued by the FCC indicating Amateur Operator Testing Activity by VEC for the six month period ending June 30. Although there are 18 VEC organizations, more than 76% of all examinations are conducted through the ARRL and W5YI-VEC programs:

1988 Elem. Total %				1989 Elem. Total %			
VEC	Rank	Adm.	Tested	Rank	Adm.	Tested	
ARRL	1	25085	50.49%	1	24564	47.30%	
W5YI	2	12698	25.56%	2	15113	29.10%	
CAVEC	3	2780	5.60%	3	3396	6.54%	
DeVRY	4	2101	4.23%	4	2014	3.88%	
SunV	5	1378	2.77%	5	1538	2.96%	
GLAARG	7	1008	2.03%	6	1036	1.99%	
WCARS	6	1036	2.08%	7	886	1.71%	
LARC	8	738	1.49%	8	749	1.44%	
Sand	11	440	0.89%	9	589	1.13%	
PHD	10	500	1.01%	10	426	0.82%	
BEARS*	9	509	1.01%*				
[*No longer a VEC]			97%				97%
8 Other VEC's			3%				3%
TOTAL:			100%				100%

JUNE VE PROGRAM STATISTICS

June No. VEC's	1987 *75	1988 *59	1989 *62
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Testing Sessions

VEC	1987	1988	1989
ARRL	42.8%	45.4%	48.3%
W5YI	25.6	29.6	28.7
CAVEC	6.5	4.6	4.8
DeVry	5.6	6.4	5.6
Others	19.5	14.0	12.6
Year-to-Date Sess:	2220	2438	2748

Elements Administ.

VEC	1987	1988	1989
ARRL	51.8%	52.5%	55.4%
W5YI	21.0	23.0	22.7
CAVEC	3.8	3.7	4.1
DeVry	5.0	5.9	4.2
Others	18.4	14.9	13.6
Year-to-Date Elem.	43209	49680	51933

Applicants Tested

VEC	1987	1988	1989
ARRL	44.7%	52.1%	55.1%
W5YI	20.0	22.6	22.8
CAVEC	3.8	3.3	3.7
DeVry	5.6	6.4	4.2
Others	25.9	15.6	14.2
Year-to-Date Tested	36496	41645	45490

June

	1987	1988	1989
Pass Rate - All	60.0%	61.6%	62.4%
Pass Rate - W5YI	58.6%	55.2%	59.4%
Applicants/Session	12.3	11.5	10.5
Appl./Session W5YI	8.5	7.3	7.1
Elements/Applicant	1.6	1.7	1.7
Sessions Per VEC	7.3	7.2	8.1

Administrative Errors by VE's/VEC's

June	1987	1988	1989
Defect. Applications	0.2%	1.3%	0.5%
Late Filed Sessions	0.5%	3.0%	1.8%
Defective Reports	3.0%	1.6%	1.2%

*Note:

The FCC considers the ARRL, W5YI and DeVry VEC's to be 13 VEC's each since VEC's are appointed on a regional basis. The 13 regions are: Call Sign districts 1 through 0 plus Alaska (11), Caribbean (12) and Pacific Insular areas (13). [Effective 9/1/89, every VEC may coordinate examinations in every region.]

Source: Pers.Rad.Branch/FCC; Washington, D.C.

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AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

...issued as of the first of July 1989:.

Radio District	Gp. "A" Extra	Gp. "B" Advan.	Gp. "C" Tech/Gen	Gp. "D" Novice
0	WU0U	KF0DT	N0KUY	KB0EXN
1	NX1F	KC1PL	N1GSO	KA1UFB
2	WR2F	KE2OE	N2JQR	KB2IEH
3	NV3I	KD3NS	N3HGK	KA3UXS
4 (*)	AB4PG	KM4UN	N4WET	KC4LNM
5 (*)	AA5MH	KG5VT	N5OTF	KB5KBE
6 (*)	AA6OU	KJ6WP	N6VOJ	KC6EQG
7 (*)	AA7AY	KF7VB	N7NBM	KB7IGG
8	WT8Z	KF8AE	N8KZQ	KB8HVA
9	WJ9D	KE9QZ	N9IQG	KB9DCM
N. Mariana Is.	AH0H	AH0AE	KH0AM	WH0AAL
Guam	KH2K	AH2CE	KH2DW	WH2AMF
Johnston Is.	AH3B	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Island		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Palmyra/Jarvis	AH5A			
Hawaii	(**)	AH6JU	NH6TV	WH6CEF
Kure Island			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8C	AH8AD	KH8AH	WH8AAZ
Wake Wilkes Peale	AH9A	AH9AD	KH9AD	WH9AAH
Alaska	(**)	AL7LI	NL7SD	WL7BVI
Virgin Islands	NP2E	KP2BQ	NP2DE	WP2AGY
Puerto Rico	(**)	KP4QE	WP4VX	WP4IKT

NOTE: * = All 2-by-1 format call signs have been assigned in the 4th, 5th, 6th and (now) the 7th radio districts. 2-by-2 format call signs from the AA-AL prefix block now being assigned to Extra Class amateurs. ** = All Group "A" (2-by-1) format call signs have been assigned in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Group "B" (2-by-2) format call signs are assigned to Extra Class when Group "A" run out.

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]

ILLEGAL HAM/DJ OPERATION SHUT DOWN

Two licensed ham radio operators in Massapequa, NY, were fined \$750 last month for operating a pirate broadcast radio station they called **Worldwide National Public Radio**.

On the evening of June 8th, an FCC engineer monitored **"WNPR"** playing popular music on 7415 kHz, a frequency not authorized to the Amateur Radio Service operating from the residence of **Herbert Meyers, K2LPK**, 121 Division Avenue. **Neal Newman, KA2CAF**, 249 Division Avenue, was assisting in the station's operation. The transmissions were first detected by the FCC's national monitoring network. Using mobile radio-direction

MAY AMATEUR LICENSING STATS

<u>May</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	
New					
Amateurs	894	6567	3002	3302	
<u>Upgrading:</u>					
Novices	447	2563	1885	2068	
Technicians	183	730	573	661	
Generals	186	789	492	481	
Advanced	<u>111</u>	<u>485</u>	<u>376</u>	<u>356</u>	
Total:	905	4567	3326	3566	
<u>Renewals:</u>					
Total Renew:	N/A	3145	4088	*311	
Novices	N/A	310	335	*36	
<u>Purged:(*)</u>					
Total Drop:	1174	1263	2021	1854	
Novices	N/A	890	1055	902	
<u>Census:</u>					
Indiv. Oper.	417167	428867	436912	456871	
Change/Year	+6321	+11700	+8045	+19959*	
<u>Indiv. Operators by Class:</u>					
<u>Extra</u>	<u>Advan.</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Tech.</u>	<u>Novice</u>	<u>Total:</u>
<u>May 1986:</u>					
39463	97856	116460	84659	78729	417167
9.5%	23.4%	27.9%	20.3%	18.9%	100%
<u>May 1987</u>					
42136	97880	115045	87631	86175	428867
9.8%	22.8%	26.8%	20.5%	20.1%	100%
<u>May 1988:</u>					
45208	98493	113648	96888	82675	436912
10.3%	22.6%	26.0%	22.2%	18.9%	100.0%
<u>May 1989:</u>					
48471	100572	115404	108158	84266	456871
10.6%	22.0%	25.3%	23.7%	18.4%	100.0%
Club/					
RACES &	(1986)	(1987)	(1988)	(1989)	
Military	<u>2735</u>	<u>2449</u>	<u>2366</u>	<u>2474</u>	
Total Active	419902	431316	439278	459345	
% Increase	+1.5%	-2.7%	+1.9%	+4.6%*	

• *Again, we remind you that the U. S. amateur service is **not really expanding at a 4.6% rate**. Note the reduction in the number of renewals due to the implementation of the ten-year term license in January 1984. There were 19,212 renewals for the first five months of 1988, only 2,488 this year. If you adjust for this difference, the U.S. amateur census would be up only .8%, continuing the lower growth rate trend.

finding equipment, an engineer from the New York FCC office located the the pirate station at the Meyers residence. The pair could have been fined \$100,000 and given one year in prison.

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SIKES SELECTED AS NEW FCC CHAIRMAN

As predicted in this report, President Bush announced on June 28th his intention to nominate Assistant Secretary of Commerce **Alfred C. Sikes** to head the FCC for a five year term ending June 30, 1993.

Sikes is expected to win easy Senate confirmation at which time the President will designate him Chairman. He could be seated before the FCC's August break. Everyone seems quite pleased with the nomination ...especially the broadcast industry. The current FCC Chairman, Dennis Patrick, said he would resign to join the private sector as soon as his successor begins duty. Patrick said Sikes is a "superlative choice" to head the agency.

Sikes has been Administrator of the *National Telecommunications and Information Administration* (NTIA) since 1986. NTIA, a part of the Dept. of Commerce, is supposed to act as the President's official telecommunications advisor. It is the frequency coordinator and licensing authority for Federal spectrum users. NTIA also conducts scientific research at its Institute for Telecommunication Sciences in Boulder, Colorado.

Sikes is known for favoring continued deregulation of telecommunications, such as permitting the regional telephone companies (the "Baby Bells") to enter new businesses they are now prohibited from entering. However, the NTIA lacks the authority in many cases to implement its recommendations in the private sector. As the Reagan administration's chief communications advisor, he opposed the Fairness Doctrine which mandates that opposing views be aired.

The NTIA suffered tough budget cuts during the Reagan years, as did other government departments. After one round of cuts, cynical observers called NTIA "**Not a Terribly Important Agency**". Sikes has also publicly supported the concept of reallocating government spectrum to the private sector (see story page one).

Sikes, 49, a lawyer and former broadcaster from Missouri, graduated from the University of Missouri Law School in 1964. He also was an assistant attorney general of that state. Interestingly, Sikes hails from Sikeston, Missouri ...a city named after his ancestors. Many of his family still live there.

From 1978 to 1986, he *headed up Sikes & Associates*, a political and radio station ownership consulting firm. At one point Sikes owned six radio stations which he reportedly acquired for \$550,000 and later sold for \$1.95 million before accepting the top job at the NTIA.

He is married, has three children and lives in Bethesda, Md. It is expected that Sikes will move quickly to patch up the FCC's poor relationship with Congress which developed during the Reagan Administration.

The White House has yet to announce any plans to reappoint or replace FCC Commissioner Patricia Dennis, whose term expired at the end of June. She has been interviewing for a job in private law practice, but so far has not accepted any other employment. A call to her office told us only that her status is "...business as usual"

MARSHALL PARANOIA

Attornies Andy Barrett and Sherrie Marshall were also appointed to fill vacant FCC commissioner slots as expected. Barrett's term would run through June 30, 1990, although it is rumored that he has been assured of an additional term. All three appointees, Sikes, Barrett and Marshall, are Republicans.

The appointment of Marshall, 35, seems to be very controversial in the amateur community since she is currently with the Washington law firm of Wiley, Rein & Fielding. Dick Wiley, who founded the firm, is a very influential ex-FCC chairman. One of their primary clients, United Parcel Service, played a key role in the 220-222 MHz reallocation to narrow band commercial use.

Marshall would fill out the unexpired term of departing FCC Chairman Dennis Patrick, which ends on June 30, 1992.

Several amateurs have sent us a copy of a message that has been getting wide play on the ham packet networks.

It reads in part:

"URGENT!!! ALL AMATEURS MUST READ!!!!

Monday, June 19, 1989---We have received word that Sharree (sic) Marshall has been nominated to the Federal Communications Commission.

AMECO LICENSE PREPARATION MANUALS - Contain all Amateur Radio Examination questions, multiple choices, correct answer identified - and explanation why answer is correct

NOVICE AMATEUR RADIO COURSE - Complete with 2 cassette Morse code course and illustrated textbook. Everything you need to know to become a Novice amateur radio operator - or to teach an entry level

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"Sharree Marshall is now an employee of the law firm which presents (sic) UPS in that firm's so-far successful attempt to remove 220-222 MHz from the Amateur Service for misuse by the land mobile industry. As such, Ms. Marshall is seen to be very prejudiced in her views for the landmobile service, to the exclusion of all other services which can't 'pay their way', especially the Amateur Service."

"If Ms. Marshall is confirmed by Senate, it can be well, assured that Amateur Radio will have a very powerful enemy in its rule-making agency at a time when we least can afford it. Why? Because this is not the last grab to be attempted by the spectrum thieves against Amateur spectra. As of Friday, June 16, we understand that there are two more Petitions poised to take away Amateur bands, one against 902-928 MHz, the other against 420-450 MHz. And look for some of the low bands to be struck after that!"

"It is incumbent upon EVERY Amateur, whether he or she is active on 220 or not, to oppose the confirmation of this nomination."

Other packet messages being circulated provide amateurs with addresses to write the Senate Communications Subcommittee opposing the Marshall confirmation. Much of the information being circulated is full of half truths, misspellings and poor English. One says Marshall is a former lobbyist for the FCC and the White House.

Although her law firm is admittedly well connected, there have been no pronouncements that would give evidence to the idea that Marshall is "very prejudiced" against Amateur Radio. No petitions have been filed looking towards reallocating 902-928 MHz or 420-450. The ITU nations allocate 902-928 primarily to ISM (industrial, scientific and medical) use, amateur use is secondary. The big amateur outcry against Marshall appears to be based on much misinformation.

It is doubtful she will have much difficulty in obtaining Senate confirmation. They all know her background. Over the past several years she has worked for the Dept. of the Treasury, Federal Election Commission, as an aide to outgoing FCC Chairman Patrick, and as a White House counsel during the Reagan administration and the transition to the Bush presidency. She is also a former counsel for the Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

Interview with...

MICHAEL R. RILEY/KX1B

Associate, Disaster Communications
American Red Cross, Washington D.C.

Mike Riley was formerly assistant to **David Sumner/K1ZZ**, Executive Vice President of the ARRL. Other posts during his 5 years in Newington included Assistant Communications Manager, Public Service Manager ...and representative to a variety of ARRL advisory committees. Riley authored the *ARRL Emergency Coordinator's Handbook*.

His 19-year experience with ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) and the National Traffic System will undoubtedly help as he tackles some huge responsibilities in his new job in emergency communications at the American Red Cross (ARC).

Riley is responsible for all radio communications of the ARC. This mission is actually worldwide. Riley's department must ensure that ARC disaster personnel can communicate in emergencies anywhere in the world they may have to travel.

He is developing plans to upgrade ARC radio capabilities, including operations on the nationwide Red Cross emergency frequency, 47.42 MHz. KX1B explained that Amateur Radio will play an important role in the improvement of Red Cross communications.

Nationwide HF net:

"We're working on getting a state-of-the-art ham station for HF and VHF set up at our national headquarters. Once we're up and running on HF, we'd like to arrange a weekly or bimonthly net on 20 and 40 meters. The net would be an open forum. Any amateur would be welcome to check in. We would be looking toward getting Red Cross chapters that have Amateur Radio facilities to participate, and hopefully, the net could also interest Red Cross personnel into becoming hams."

Disaster inquiries:

"Let's say there is a catastrophic earthquake. Mass care is our role in such a situation. There will immediately be a massive outpouring of traffic from the public inquiring as to whether their relatives are okay. The ARC provides a system called *Disaster Welfare Inquiry*, by which interested parties outside the affected area can contact their local Red Cross chapter. The chapter would in turn relay the query to and obtain a reply from the

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affected area. Right now the system is very hard to manage. The system was developed several decades ago. At this point, if we had to use it we could, but it's dependent on paper. I'd rather use portable computers, which could keep better track of the unbelievable amount of data we would have if there were a catastrophic earthquake."

"We're considering the development of two or three ARC hub communication centers throughout the country. The hubs would communicate with the affected area and contact the areas that made the inquiries. They would also serve as communications resources for the ARC when the phone lines are down. I would hope these hub operations would involve amateurs."

Use of satellite technology:

"One of our experts in this field is Ted Harris/N6IU, who is heavily involved in communications at the ARC's Western Operations HQ in Burlingame, Calif. He has done a lot of footwork on our satellite program. We've received loaner equipment from NASA for use with the ATS-3 (Applications Technology Satellite). We hope to use this to communicate directly via satellite between Washington DC and the affected area, and we'll test it at a drill called Response 89 in California in August."

"In the near future we will acquire a portable INMARSAT (International Maritime Satellite) terminal so that emergency personnel can communicate with the ARC in Washington, and if needed with the International Committee for the Red Cross in Geneva, from any point on the globe."

Creation of a national disaster plan:

"It will be a monumental project, but it has to be done. There is no national radio communications plan, and this really concerns me. The ARC can't just rest on 47.42 MHz, hoping to dust off the cobwebs and operate in emergencies. We have to develop a plan and disseminate it to chapters throughout the country so that it isn't stored in some safe in Washington, only to be looked at during a disaster. Right now I'm looking at the plan to be written similar to the ARRL Emergency Coordinator's Handbook."

Basic Communicator's Course:

"By the end of fiscal year 1989-90, I want to have a basic communicator's course available through the Red Cross, directed at people who know nothing about radio. Possibly, it would use an

amateur licensing course as a supplement. The course would provide RC volunteers and staffers with the basics of using 47.42 MHz. But there is a lot more to communicating than picking up a microphone and talking. We want RC volunteers and staffers to have a basic knowledge of what radio is all about, so that they better understand exactly what hams can provide. We need to mount a dedicated effort throughout our organization informing Red Cross volunteers and paid staff that Amateur Radio is a resource out there that should be used."

"The ARC has had communicator's courses in the past, but the organization is implementing a new program that will offer courses one must pass in order to be able to effectively respond to different levels of disasters. There are levels that require radio communications personnel, but no courses are available yet."

Preparedness:

"If I had to rely strictly on Red Cross radio communications, not including Amateur Radio, I'd rate us at about a 3 in emergency preparedness on a scale of 1 to 10. With amateurs, I'd put us at about a 7, and I'd like us to be at 11 within five years."

"We're heavily dependent on amateurs. We expect to work more on outreach. We had a Red Cross forum at the ARRL 75th anniversary convention in Texas. We hope to have a booth at the ARRL Pacific convention in San Jose, and I'm inquiring into a Red Cross forum for next year's Dayton. One of my personal goals is to get the word out to local amateur clubs about the American Red Cross. To really be effective, we know we have to get to the grass roots level. By spending a few thousand dollars on this campaign, we could reap much more value in volunteer service. The Red Cross is willing to invest the money."

Funding:

"The Red Cross does not receive tax revenues. We are a part of the United Way. We are a 501 (c)(3) organization that relies upon donations. We've been in existence for well over 100 years, providing help to the American populace and military. There were Red Cross personnel helping our military in World War II, in Korea, Vietnam. The Red Cross recently spent more than \$2 million helping people during the flooding in Texas. We ask no charge for our services to the American public, and never will."